

Managing **light pollution** in our community

Keeping Brisbane clean and green is all about making our city liveable and sustainable for our children, and their children to follow.

Brisbane City Council, residents and businesses all have a role to play in managing light pollution in our community. Council encourages Brisbane residents to discuss issues and work together to find practical solutions to eliminate light nuisances.

Light pollution is artificial light that illuminates or pollutes outside areas not intended to be lit. It can be intrusive and affect health and wellbeing, particularly when it disturbs sleep. Light pollution can come from a range of sources, including security lights, floodlights and advertising signs.

Be a good neighbour

Your neighbour may not be aware they are impacting negatively on you and a friendly face-to-face conversation may quickly resolve the issue. If you are planning to install some new external lights, our tips to reduce light emissions will help you be a good neighbour.



Responsibilities and the law

The Queensland Government's *Environmental Protection Act 1994* regulates light nuisance offences. Council is responsible for investigating light pollution complaints and issuing notices and fines. The investigating Council officer will consider the:

- amount of light being emitted
- duration and rate of emission
- light characteristics and qualities
- sensitivity of the receiving environment
- potential impact the light is having on neighbours.



Tips to reduce light emissions

- When buying external lights, consider their brightness. The lower the brightness, the less likely they will impact on neighbours. Warm white, lower lumen, light-emitting diode (LED) light globes should have less impact on neighbouring properties.
- When positioning new external lights, make sure they do not shine into the bedrooms or living areas of neighbouring properties.
- Switch lights off when not required. Use timers or sensor lights to ensure lights are turned off when not needed.
- Reduce the glare factor. Ensure the light beam from elevated lights is kept below 70 degrees from the horizontal and use light shields.
- Don't over light. Less is more for your neighbours and your electricity bill. It's also one of the ways you can help keep Brisbane clean, green and sustainable.



Where possible, direct the light downwards. If installing ground lights, use light shields to prevent light affecting your neighbours.

More information

If you are unable to resolve the issue with your neighbour, please lodge a complaint with Council by:

- 📞 **phoning** our Contact Centre on 3403 8888
- 🌐 **visiting** our website at brisbane.qld.gov.au
- ✉️ **writing** to Brisbane City Council at GPO Box 1434, Brisbane QLD 4001.



**Brisbane City Council
Information**
GPO Box 1434
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